GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:191
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2003
PRODUCTION OF FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND FLOWERS
ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN;MANSINH PATEL

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes regarding production and marketing of vegetables, fruits and flowers in the country;

(b) the quantum of vegetables, fruits and flowers produced in the country during the last three years;

(c) the percentage of the production out of the above spoiled due to inadequate cold storage facility;

(d) the cold storage capacity in the country at present; and

(e) the measures being taken by the Government for processing of the said perishable commodities produced in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 191 DUE FOR REPLY ON 15TH DECEMBER, 2003.

(a): The Government has been implementing various schemes for production and marketing of vegetables, fruits and flowers in the country. Under the schemes, various activities such as supply of good quality planting material, area expansion with improved high yielding varieties, productivity improvement measures, training programmes, coverage under drip irrigation, green house construction, plastic mulching are taken up. These activities are now being implemented under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme − Macro Management of Agriculture − Supplementation/Complementation of State Efforts through Work Plans. Under this scheme, the State Governments can prioritize their activities as per their felt needs and requirements. The Government is also implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on `Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture` in North Eastern States including Sikkim, which has been extended to the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh during the year 2003-04. The Mission would address all aspects of development with an end-to- end approach for increasing the production and marketing of horticultural crops including fruits, vegetables and flowers in the country. In addition, the National Horticulture Board is also implementing a scheme for development of commercial horticulture through production and post harvest management.

(b): The available information on the quantum of vegetables, fruits and flowers produced in the country during the last three years is given below:-

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
Fruits (Million Tonnes)	44.04	45.50	45.37
Vegetables (Million Tonnes)	87.54	90.82	93.92
Flowers −			
Loose (000` Metric Tonnes)	0.419	642.8	0.509
Cut (million Nos.)	680.6	0.556	803.5

(c)&(d): The report of Sub-Working Group on Post Harvest Management, Marketing and Export for Tenth Plan has assessed that the wastage of fruits and vegetables ranges from 8-37% at various stages of handling after harvest. The cold storage capacity in the country as on 31.12.2002 is 172.44 lakh tonnes.

(e): The Government through the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MFPI) provides financial assistance in the form of grants for setting up new food processing units and for expansion/modernization of the existing units. Besides, MFPI is also promoting food processing industries through infrastructure development, quality assurance and human resource development.